

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE AND
DISCIPLINE

No. C00-177A

In the matter of:

Joseph P. Bellino, M.D.

License #: MD 03762

Consent Order

Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §5-37-5.2, 1956, as amended, (1995 Reenactment) complaints were filed with the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline (hereinafter referred to as "Board") charging Joseph P. Bellino, M.D., Respondent, with violations of §5-37-5.1. An investigation was conducted by an Investigating Committee of the Board.

The following constitutes the Investigating Committee's Findings of Fact with respect to the professional performance of the Respondent.

Findings of Facts

1. The Respondent, Joseph P. Bellino, M.D., was employed at University Otolaryngology in Rhode Island. The Respondent is Board Certified in Otolaryngology. He is the Chief of Otolaryngology at the Rhode Island Hospital. He has practiced this specialty in Rhode Island since 1965. The Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline received notification from Rhode Island Hospital that the Respondent performed an adenoidectomy and a bilateral myringotomy with tubes on December 21, 2000 on the wrong patient. The family was informed of the error immediately, steps were taken on a hospital wide basis to prevent other errors, and the Respondent took a lead role in the program designed to prevent such errors in the future.

g. Any objection to the fact that this Consent Order will be presented to the Board for consideration and review;

h. Any objection to the fact that it will be necessary for the Board to become acquainted with all evidence pertaining to this matter in order to review adequately this Consent Order;

i. Any objection to the fact that potential bias against the Respondent may occur as a result of the presentation of this Consent Order;

(4) Acceptance of this Consent Order constitutes an acknowledgement by the Respondent that the Board found the facts set forth herein.

(5) This Consent Order shall become part of the public record of this proceeding once it is accepted by all parties and by the Board.

(6) Failure to comply with this Consent Order, when signed and accepted, shall subject the Respondent to further disciplinary action.

(7) The Respondent agrees to use his position as Chief of the Department of Otolaryngology to work towards solving the problem relating to medical errors and in seeking preventive solutions. To this end he will participate in a working group of physicians who will study and make

recommendations to the Department of Health regarding reducing medical errors and wrong site/wrong patient surgery.

- (8) This working group shall meet at dates and times over the course of the next year as determined by the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline and the Director of Health.

Signed this 7th day of July, 2003.

July 7th

Joseph P. Berlino, M.D.

Ratified by the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline at a meeting held on June 12, 2003.

Patricia A. Nolan, MD, MPH
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Director of Health